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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Todd Garabedian on September 4, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Clam 19 has been replaced with the following:

19. A method of enhancing the humoral immune response of a patient relative to the normal humoral immune response, comprising the steps of:

providing a tumor antigen, a bacterial protein, or a viral protein, or a fragment thereof, wherein each of said tumor antigen, a bacterial protein, or a viral protein, or a fragment thereof comprises an aspartic acid residue or an asparagine residue;

treating said tumor antigen, a bacterial protein, or a viral protein, or a fragment thereof to convert said aspartic acid residue or said asparagine residue to an isoaspartic acid residue to produce an isoaspartic acid-containing tumor antigen, an isoaspartic acid-containing bacterial protein, an isoaspartic acid-containing viral protein, or isoaspartic acid-containing fragment thereof;

assaying for levels of isoaspartyl modification in the treated tumor antigen, bacterial protein, viral protein, or fragment thereof;

administering the isoaspartic acid-containing tumor antigen, isoaspartic acid-containing bacterial protein, isoaspartic acid-containing viral protein, or isoaspartic acid-containing fragment thereof to said patient to elicit said enhanced humoral immune response.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karen A. Canella whose telephone number is (571)272-0828. The examiner can normally be reached on 10-6:30 M-F.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Larry Helms can be reached on (571)272-0832. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Karen A Canella/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1643